

State Territory of the Virgin Islands

Methods of Providing Transportation to Medical Assistance Recipients

1. Expenses for transportation and other related travel expenses incident to securing medical examination and/or treatment are provided when determined to be necessary for the individual case and where transportation is not otherwise available.

2. Transportation is paid as an expense of administration.

3. Kinds of travel covered:

a. Inter-island travel.

b. Off-island travel to Puerto Rico or to the United States.

4. Methods of travel:

a. Within the same island, bus, taxi, automobile, ambulance, common carrier are available means commonly used.

Organized transportation system of public buses and taxis is generally used by recipients within community boundaries. The distance from home to health facilities is relatively short. Resources of ambulance service from the general hospital is used by the agency.

b. Inter-island travel requires other means such as: airplanes, seaplanes, and boats.

State owned vehicles such as boats are made available as needed, especially for transportation of patients from the island of St. John to the St. Thomas Hospital (Knud-Hansen Memorial Hospital).

c. Travel to Puerto Rico and the U.S.A. requires air travel. Commercial planes are usually used and in emergencies charter planes are contracted.

5. Arrangements for travel:

a. The Medical Social Service Unit staff of the Bureau is responsible for making the necessary arrangements for traveling. Coordination of such arrangements with family, responsible referring agencies, social service or nursing staff, and medical care or facility where recipient would go is also part of their responsibilities.

St. T. I. Tr. 3/21/74 Incorp. 6/28/74 Effective 12/31/73

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\* As per Medicaid AT 82-30.

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Attachment 3.1 <sup>\*</sup> 0

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6. Factors considered in selecting means of travel:

- a. Suitability to the recipient's medical needs, as well as least expensive available transportation that will serve the need.
- b. Agency is not obliged to provide transportation beyond reasonable measures.

7. Administrative Controls

- a. Prior authorization is required for all off-island care. The evaluation of referrals for off-island care involves also the medical and/or social need of escort and type of escort whether relative, nurse or doctor.
- b. The Resident Social Service Unit of the Bureau assures that the best possible plan for patient travel is implemented.
- c. Official documents are prepared at that Unit and proper instructions provided to patient and escort.

SE. C. J. Tr. 3/21/74 Incorp. 6/28/74 Effective 12/31/73 per letter